

FEBRUARY 7, 1976

KISSINGER, LATIN AMERICA AND ANGOLA

ANNCR:

NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES THE IMMINENT KISSINGER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA IN THE CONTEXT OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE CONCERN OVER SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

VOICE:

THE SUBJECT WILL NOT TOP THE AGENDA OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH LEADERS OF TEN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS. FIRST PRIORITY, OF COURSE, WILL BE GIVEN TO BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL MATTERS IN A PERIOD THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON FRIDAY SAID WAS CHARACTERIZED BY RELATIONS BETTER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN SOME TIME. BUT THESE OFFICIALS ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIET-CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA CERTAINLY WILL BE DISCUSSED.

THE REASONS ARE OBVIOUS. MANY LATIN AMERICANS, AS COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO SAID RECENTLY IN PANAMA, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT CUBA'S PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. THEY SEE IT AS NAKED, AGGRESSIVE INTERVENTION IN A COUNTRY FAR REMOVED FROM THIS HEMISPHERE. BUT THEY REASON THAT IF CUBA CAN PLACE ELEVEN THOUSAND TROOPS IN COMBAT IN SUCH A COUNTRY, HOW MUCH EASIER WOULD IT BE FOR HAVANA TO DO THE SAME THING IN THEIRS, AT THE BEHEST OF THE SOVIET UNION. AND MANY LATIN AMERICANS ARE SHOCKED AT THE CALLOUSNESS OF THE HAVANA REGIME'S LEADERS IN SENDING ELEVEN THOUSAND YOUNG CUBANS TO DIE FAR FROM THEIR HOMES. IN LA PAZ, THE NEWSPAPER PRESENCIA DEPLORES WHAT IT SEES AS A LACK OF INTEREST BY LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IN THE FACT THAT CUBA HAS COMMITTED ONE-TENTH OF ITS ARMED FORCES TO THE ANGOLAN ADVENTURE. AND IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR, THE NEWSPAPER EL TELEGRAFO SAYS THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA REPRESENTS WHAT IT CALLS A

"GRAVE THREAT TO WORLD PEACE." AND IN SAN SALVADOR, LA PRENSA GRAFICA CALLED THE CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA "CANNON FODDER," DYING AND BEING TAKEN PRISONER WITHOUT KNOWING WHY THEY ARE THERE. LATEST REPORTS PLACE CUBAN CASUALTIES AT BETWEEN ONE THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN HUNDRED.

THE UNITED STATES, AS DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS INDICATED IN RECENT PRESS CONFERENCES AND SPEECHES, SHARES THESE CONCERNS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. AND IN ADDITION WASHINGTON IS TROUBLED BY WHAT IT SEES AS A SOVIET EFFORT TO SUBVERT THE AIMS OF DETENTE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD PEACE. THAT IS WHY SECRETARY KISSINGER THIS WEEK WARNED THAT NO NATION SHOULD TRY TO USE THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE AS A LICENSE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS. THAT COMMITMENT, HE SAID IN LARAMIE, WYOMING, CENTERS ON CREATING A SECURE, STABLE WORLD FOR ALL NATIONS--AND THAT INCLUDES THE SOVIET UNION AS MUCH AS THE UNITED STATES.

THUS, THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NEIGHBORS IN THIS HEMISPHERE COINCIDE AT MANY POINTS IN THEIR VIEWS OF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. AS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INDICATED FRIDAY, THIS WILL BECOME APPARENT AS THE KISSINGER VISITS TO VENEZUELA, PERU, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA GET UNDERWAY FEBRUARY SIXTEENTH. THOSE OFFICIALS ADDED THAT THE VISITS WILL BE USEFUL IN GIVING WASHINGTON A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT ITS LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS CONSIDER ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS HEMISPHERE OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

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